

HCS HB 939 -- TICKET PURCHASER PROTECTIONS

SPONSOR: McCreery

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Emerging Issues by a vote of 10 to 0. Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Select Standing Committee on General Laws by a vote of 5 to 4.

This bill prohibits an individual, corporation, business, or company from:

(1) Restricting the resale of any ticket or season ticket package as a condition of sale, to retain the ticket or ticket package for the duration of the subscription or season ticket package agreement, or to retain any contractually agreed upon rights to purchase or transfer future ticket subscriptions or season ticket packages;

(2) Denying access to a ticket holder solely on the basis that the ticket was resold; and

(3) Employing a paperless ticketing system, unless the consumer is given the option to purchase a paperless ticket which is transferable.

The bill does not prohibit an individual, corporation, business, or company from:

(1) Maintaining or enforcing its policies with regard to conduct or behavior in connection with its venue; and

(2) Restricting the resale of tickets which are sold as part of a targeted promotion or are donated for charitable or civic purposes.

The bill does not apply to tickets for professional sporting events.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that those who purchase tickets gain a property right which should be transferable at will. Attempts to restrict ticket sale or transfer by gift are an attempt to monopolize the secondary market in tickets and gain additional revenue.

Testifying for the bill were Representative McCreery; United For Missouri; Joan Bray, Consumers Council Of Missouri; Cara Spencer; Rex Tennyson, USA Tours; John Breyault, National Consumers League; Andrew Langer, Institute For Liberty; Cherie Zull Houser, Midwest Bus & Motorcoach Association; and Peter Pantuso, American Bus Association.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.